

# SECTION XII

## *CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVAL*

### **12.1. GENERAL BACKGROUND**

The Rivers Project makes important contributions to regional and national inland navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, environmental education, and tourism. The Rivers Project resources and management activities provide quality opportunities for education, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, boating and other activities for people throughout the Midwest. The Upper Mississippi River is recognized as a national treasure for its natural resources as well as its importance to the commerce of the nation. Providing for public use, establishing sound ecological treatment for 47,641 acres of public lands and instilling an appreciation for this national treasure is the intended outcome of this plan.

Wildlife and archaeological, historical, and aesthetic resources are also important in the project area. The St. Louis District will strive to use its capabilities and professional expertise to preserve and make project resources available for a broad and varied range of compatible uses.

The combining of five water resource projects and the open river, between St. Louis and Cairo, into one comprehensive Master Plan has enabled the project to function in a regional context. Many agencies, organizations and the public have been brought together to provide input to this plan. Alteration of the Master Plan may be necessary as conditions change. Updating of this plan will be scheduled when deemed necessary.

### **12.2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that this Master Plan be approved as a guide for the use, management and enrichment of the ecological, cultural and aesthetic resources of the Rivers Project, while developing new approaches for sustaining safe and healthful recreational facilities, and preserving and recognizing ecological values.

This Master Plan recommends a broad range of resource objectives, and management and development concepts. Those recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- Fish and wildlife habitat enrichment
- Safe public access
- Cooperative planning and local participation
- Monitoring and performance evaluation
- Operational management strategies
- Efficient management through changes to the General Plan and Cooperative Agreement

Fulfillment of fish and wildlife habitat development strategies will be possible only if ongoing programs such as EMP, Section 206 and

Section 1135, and Avoid and Minimize and other environmental improvement authorities are supported.

Recreation surveys and an access study will guide development and management of recreation facilities in accordance with Corps guidelines and partner support.

Project operational and management strategies will be implemented in the OMP after approval of this Master Plan.

Amending the General Plan and Cooperative Agreement to reflect the proposed changes as a result of this plan will ensure more effective management through closer partnering arrangements and leveraging of resources among participating agencies.

Continue cooperative planning and participation with other organizations and agencies in land use planning efforts.

Conducting additional studies to monitor and evaluate project resources, management activities, and project objectives will insure the best identification, evaluation, analysis, and management of project resources. In particular the following studies or reports are recommended:

- Level I and II Inventories
- Public Access and Primitive Camping Analysis
- Shoreline Management Plan
- Historic Properties Management Plan – It is important that an ongoing monitoring and protection program be maintained for all project lands and work activities.
- Visitor Use Surveys – Collection of visitor use data is a continuing project responsibility, to assist in evaluating existing project use, determining the adequacy of existing facilities, identifying future facilities requirements, justifying funding, and estimating budgets.
- Avoid and Minimize Measures
- Endangered and Sensitive Species Protection and Recovery

---

### **12.3. CONCLUSION**

The formulation of a viable plan for development and management of the Rivers Project has required extensive interaction and involvement of the general public as well as federal, state, and local offices; appraisal of natural and cultural resources of the project and examination of various environmental, economic and political considerations. This plan will guide use, development, and management of the project in a manner optimizing public benefits within resource potentials and the authorized functions of the project into the 21st Century.